



Littlefield Letters



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No. 3

MARCH MUSTER CALL

date: 12 March 1987
time: 6:15p.m. Mess Call
place: Wyatt's Cafeteria
910 W. Anderson Ln.

Quartermaster Wes Schiwitz informs us that consultation is proceeding with Wyatt's over the recurring problem of our meeting space. He asks us to bear with him and says we should see a solution in the near future. Meanwhile, please don't let this keep you away from the meetings. Our attendance at meetings keeps growing. We are very happy at this growth and hope to keep growing; so we depend on your help. Our March program will be centered around "Santos Benavides" and will be brought by Col. John Scribner, Historian from the Adjutant General's Dep't., Camp Mabry. By the way, Rodney Leist, Chmn. of the Entertainment Comm. is looking for volunteers to bring programs to our meetings.

BATTERY AT LIBERTY HILL

Sampson Connell Jr. (ancestor of the Connell's and Jordan's) was honored Sat., 28 February 1987, in a ceremony at the Connell Cemetery in Liberty Hill. The ceremony dedicated a "Citizen of the Republic" marker and was punctuated by a salute by the Littlefield Battery and Taps played by Greg Hector. This program was very well planned and attended by about 160 people. All enjoyed a sumptuous repast at the reception which followed. Good job Jordans and Connells!



THE CONVENTION THAT WASN'T

Only once in U.S. history has a political convention failed to nominate a Presidential candidate. The Democratic Party was so torn by dissension in 1860 that it was unable to elect anyone to oppose Abraham Lincoln.

Stephen Douglas was the likely choice. However, about 50 Southern delegates arrived at the convention in Charleston determined to stop him because of his slavery stand. The mood in the convention was tense; even the temperature was high. Fights broke out. Eventually 49 Southerners walked out. After 57 ballots no one garnered enough votes to be declared the winner.

The Convention met again in Baltimore six weeks later. Again the Southerners walked out. Some went to a nearby hall and nominated Vice-Pres. John C. Breckinridge (Ky). Another group convened in Richmond and supported Breckinridge. Douglas managed to win the nomination but never succeeded in making peace with the Southern Democrats.

Against Lincoln's 1,866,452 votes, Douglas pulled 1,375,157 and Breckinridge 847,953. The split cost Douglas the popular vote!



FORT CROGHAN -- BURNET

Judge Thomas Ferguson, a #59 Real Son, gave a 10 acre tract to the Burnet Co. Heritage Society, part of the environs of historic old Ft. Croghan. The Judge is a Burnet Co. historian and is devoted to area history. This is the second gift of this kind from him. The donated land was used as the fort's observation post and now provides a panoramic view of the fort, Burnet and the area.

Ft. Croghan was established 18 March 1849 to protect settlers from marauding Indians. It was part of a chain of Tex. defenses extending from Ft. Worth to Ft. Inge near Uvalde. It was named for Col. George Croghan and was first under the command of Lt. C.H. Tyler, Co. A, Second Dragoons. Later Co. C, 8th Inf. (Mtd) arrived to help man the fort. In 1852 the fort became the HQ for the 2nd Dragoon Reg't. Later as forts were established further west, men were transferred out of Ft. Croghan. But because of the fort, there is a Burnet named in 1858 to honor David G. Burnet.

Locating soldier's graves is one of the first tasks to be accomplished. A suitable memorial area is to be established. Development of the tract will occur in phases.

Judge Ferguson, we are very proud of you and your Southerner's love for your heritage